Illegal constructions in Delhi Cantonment

1411. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that illegal construction has been done in houses in the 14 sites given on lease by Government in the Gopinath Bazar area in Delhi Cantonment in violation of rules and regulations;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the action being taken against officials of Delhi Cantonment Board under whose patronage illegal constructions have been done by the residents; and

(d) action being taken by Government in the light of prevailing security scenario to protect army establishments in the area from high rise building which may be given on rent to anti-social elements etc.?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) There are 13 sites held on lease in the Gopinath Bazar area of Delhi Cantonment and one lease site has already been resumed by the Government. Certain unauthorised constructions have come to the notice in 12 sites out of the 13 sites in the said area.

The reasons for such illegal constructions are due to restrictive land policy, increase in population, transfer and sub-division of sites and the tendency of people to take shorter and convenient route and lack of adequate enforcement machinery with the Cantonment Board.

No case of officials of Delhi Cantonment Board who patronage such illegal activities have come to the notice of the Government.

No high rise buildings, in violation of rules and regulations, have come up and therefore the question of security threat to Army Establishments does not arise.

Opening of defence production to private sector

†1412. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received by Government so far after their decision of opening the defence production sector to private sector;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the number of indigenous and foreign companies which have shown interest for construction work in defence production sector; and

(c) the number of companies which have been allowed entry in defence production sector by Government so far?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) 14 applications have been received by Ministry of Defence through Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP) for grant of industrial licence for manufacture of vaious types of defence equipment till date.

(b) No formal proposal for construction work in defence production sector has so far been received.

(c) The Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP) has issued Six Letters of Intent for manufacture of various types of defence equipment, in consultation with Ministry of Defence to three companies, so far.

Operationalisation of LCA

1413. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) when the light combat aircraft will be made operational in Indian Air Force;

(b) when the project for this aircraft was launched;

(c) the reasons for delay; and

(d) other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Initial Operational Clearance (IOC) of indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) will be obtained for induction in Indian Air Force by year 2005-2006 and Final Operational Clearance (FOC) by 2008.

(b) Various phases of development of LCA were accorded sanction by the Government as under: